

EI-7749

Victoria Rutson  
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Finance Docket No. 35116, RJ Corman Railroad Co., Beech Creek Branch Line  
Construction and Operation – between Wallaceton and Gorton, Pennsylvania:  
Preliminary Consultation

Ms. Rutson:

I understand that you are not soliciting public comment at this time on this matter. However, I feel it is most important that you know that the request referenced here is associated with a project that has encountered serious obstacles and determined opposition. I believe that further study of this request is premature and it wastes taxpayer funded resources.

My wife and I are natives of this part of central Pennsylvania. We have a second home near Black Moshannon State Park just south of the Wallaceton-Gorton region. I believe this points up the importance of the entire area for recreation, now and for the future. The days of intensive coal mining and railroads are gone. Recreation can be as economically beneficial as this sort of industrial activity for years to come. It is certainly more important and beneficial than a huge landfill and its associated rail line.

Please consider the following:

- The application for the landfill this rail line would serve has been suspended since October 2006.
- The application for the quarry was deemed deficient in May 2007.
- There is no formal application submitted for a biofuels plant.
- There are four federal agencies on record that have identified environmental issues of concern regarding the project that would be served by this rail line.

If you continue to proceed with the RJ Corman request, please understand that it is imperative a full environmental impact statement be prepared. This is necessary in order to assess the environmental impact of this proposal *and* the project it will serve.

Best regards,

Signature: Richard D. Dixon

Printed Name: Richard Dixon

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